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attempts to modify the duties on railway iron. Since the same sources had been used by previous writers there was little opportunity to add materially to the history of land grants.

Book III deals with regulation. Among the various subjects discussed are the early mail service, the movement to break state monopolies, federal regulation of bridges, the granger movement and congress, live-stock transportation, and early safety regulation. Two chapters deal with the evolution, passage and provisions of the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887. The Cullom Report is referred to as the most influential document in shaping the act, but no further mention is made of it. It would seem that at least as much prominence might have been given to it as to the earlier Windom Report discussed in the chapter on the granger movement.

Book II deals with the relations of congress to the early "Pacific Railways," and in a way connects Books I and III. It contains a handy summary of the land grants and provisions for financial aid as finally made by congress. The discussion of the Union Central Pacific route and the lines comprising the route further south is detailed and contains much interesting congressional data. Detailed mention of the Credit Mobilier Construction Company in congress is doubtless omitted advisedly. A very brief account of the Northern Pacific is added.

Though the period from 1850 to 1887 is hardly covered as thoroughly as is the earlier period, the volume is an addition to the literature on railway history. The laboriously compiled footnote references in themselves offer opportunity for further research.

G. G. HUEBNER.

University of Pennsylvania.

Holdich, Thomas. *The Gates of India.* Pp. xv, 525. Price, \$3.25. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.

Access to India has come to be so exclusively a matter of water routes that any but those who are interested in the problem of protecting India from the northwest are apt to overlook the land routes by which various civilizations have introduced themselves to the peninsula in past ages. Colonel Holdich leads us far back in time as well as far away in distance. He takes us to the land gates of India in the hinterland of the peninsula, Tibet, Afghanistan and Baluchistan, and shows the importance that these have had in affording access to invaders and merchants. Greek, Persian and Assyrian relations with the Indian frontier—the lands west of the Indus—are shown in their dependence upon the travel routes. The chapters dealing with the explorations of Alexander are especially illuminating in the portions which describe the physical characteristics of the country through which he traveled and the difficulties which he must have encountered. The middle portion of the book treats of the less familiar but perhaps even more interesting points of access used by the Chinese from the north and the Arabs from the Makran coast. A very interesting chapter gives a review of mediaeval relations between Europe and India carried on through Seistan and Afghanistan. The

later discussion is drawn from the records of various explorers English, American and French and presents the modern conditions of travel.

Mr. Holdich's work shows the result of his twenty years' intimacy with his subject. He has enriched his narrative with other material in addition to his notes. The book is an excellent summary of the results of the best historical research as well as a testimony to the explorers of the nineteenth century.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

University of Wisconsin.

Hopkins, C. G. *Soil Fertility and Permanent Agriculture.* Pp. xxiii, 653. Price, \$2.75. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1910.

At this time when so much attention is being given to the question of conservation of resources, it is especially gratifying to have an exhaustive discussion of soil fertility, the most important of all resources, from a recognized authority on the subject. The book discusses the problems of agriculture from the scientific standpoint, but for the most part in terms intelligible to the general reader. In some of the early chapters, however, where it is necessary to expound various fundamental principles, the discussions of chemical elements, compounds and reactions are likely to be difficult for the lay mind to follow. Occasionally in other connections, also, items are introduced, as the disputed relations of phosphorus compounds in slag, which are important only to a student of chemistry.

The book is divided into four parts. Part I is devoted to chemical principles, soil formation, composition, analyses, and the relation of various soil elements to plants. Part II, "Systems of Permanent Agriculture," is a discussion of the importance of limestone, phosphorus and nitrogen, crop rotation and live stock farming, to the maintenance of soil fertility so that agriculture may be permanent. Part III is a survey of the soil investigations, crop yields, etc., at various experiment stations. Part IV is a consideration of the "various fertility factors," as fertilizers, natural and manufactured, losses of plant food in different ways, soil testing and the essentials of successful farming. Under this latter head it is interesting to note that business ability is, in the author's estimation, one of the three essentials for success. An appendix gives statistics of agricultural production, locations of agricultural colleges and experiment stations in the United States and Canada, and much other useful information to supplement the text.

The book is a veritable mine of information on the subject of scientific agriculture, and though there may be disagreement over some points, it should be highly commended.

WALTER S. TOWER.

University of Pennsylvania.

Jones, H. *The Working Faith of the Social Reformer.* Pp. xii, 305. Price, \$2.40. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.

This is a collection of essays and lectures on social problems, previously published in magazine form. The author is Professor of Moral Philosophy